

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 1-23, 25 and 26 is gratefully acknowledged.

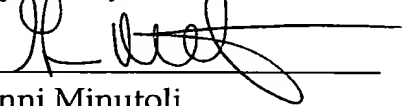
Claim 24 has been canceled. Claims 1-23 and 25-26 are pending in the present application, all of which have been allowed. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this application and in other applications.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Mayama et al., US Patent No. 6,322,060. The rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 24 has been canceled to further the prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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